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DISCOURAGING CRIMINALS.

Next to the murderer and the rapist, the robber is the worst of all criminals. As a rule, the man who will undertake a robbing expedition will also take human life if there is any occasion to do so. Discovered in the act of wrongfully possessing himself of the property of another, he will use his gun, and when he shoots he does so with the purpose of killing. Few men commit murder for the satisfaction which the crime affords them. Usually murders are committed by men who are surprised at some lesser crime.

The attorney who appeared for Jay N. Saylor, sentenced to four years' imprisonment from this county on Thursday, can not be scored for his plea in behalf of the unfortunate young man. The attorney asked the clemency of the court, on the ground that his client was young and indiscrete. This is part of the business of an attorney; it is quite as essential that a case be properly defended as properly prosecuted. In no other way can the ends of justice be subserved.

But it is gratifying to know that the plea fell upon deaf ears in Judge McBride's court, and also gratifying to note the comments of the court upon the case. Crime, said Judge McBride, has become too general to justify any leniency, and the court passed sentence within one year of the maximum. Saylor might have been sentenced to a term of five years, and he was sentenced to a four-year term.

Everyone will sympathize with the unfortunate young man whose career has started so badly. It is regrettable that any man, young or old, should land in the state prison. He is an object of pity and it is to be hoped that, upon the expiration of his sentence, he will begin life anew with better results. Yet the attitude of the court toward criminals is very proper. Had leniency been exercised in the case of young Saylor, other erring young men might have been influenced to follow in his footsteps. When it becomes generally known that our courts mean to deal harshly with wrongdoers, the tendency toward crime will be lessened, and the world will be the better for it. As to the plea of the youth of the offender, the court very properly overlooked it. Most of our very worst criminals range in age from 17 to 23 years, and they are the men who should be most rigidly dealt with.

PRACTICAL POLAR EXPLORATION.

A proposed north pole expedition under the auspices of some French scientists is described in the Independent, says the Post-Intelligencer. It hasn't the mere reaching the pole itself as an object. Its first purpose is scientific investigation and exploration. The expedition is to consist of two ships, each of which is to be a remodeled and reconstructed Fram, the wonderful little vessel that carried Nansen across the Polar sea. They will be equipped with wireless telegraphy, and though carried apart by the drift of ice, they will be in constant communication with each other.

When the Siberian drift was found on the eastern coast of Greenland, Nansen came to the conclusion that there was a current from the northern coast of Asia right across the pole. He proved the correctness of his theory by subsequently drifting over the region in the ice. The value of his expedition was in the soundings, which proved a deep Polar basin covered on the surface with broken and drifting floes, and the general trend of the current. Mr. Charles Benard, a French naval officer, has studied Nansen's voyage and the chart showing his drift in the Fram. He has elaborated further the theories of Nansen. He accounts for the current that flows across the northern ocean, and has attempted to chart it more definitely, with the object of sending out the expedition noted above. The whole mass of ice and water circulates. Warm water enters the Arctic between Iceland and Norway. The cold water pours out along the east coast of Greenland. This causes a motion eastward along the Siberian coast to about the 150th meridian, where the current bends north and flows back right over the pole itself. This flow is accelerated by the contributions of the great Siberian and American rivers and by the weight of the confined mass of ice and snow, resting as it does on the water.

The success of the proposed expedition is desired.

not that some one may find on the earth's surface the point of greatest latitude and no longitude, but because it will mean a more definite knowledge of conditions, of life, of temperature, of ocean currents, of depth of water, and of prevailing winds. This is all information that has practical application. It enriches the world's knowledge, because it makes known facts that are now unknown. In the field of science the value of such knowledge would be well worth all the expense and hardships of the expedition.

THE DIVORCE PROBLEM.

The Examiner, always outspoken in its sentiment against divorce, contributes this additional argument in favor of the sacredness of the marriage vows:

George Meredith, the English novelist, has turned teacher. He says:

"Some day the present-day conditions of marriage will be changed, and marriage will be allowed for a certain period, perhaps 10 years."

Then Mr. Meredith utters other drivel of a like degree of imbecility.

Meredith is 76 years old. If he is sincere, age has made of him an old fool. And there is no fool like an old fool.

But when novelists find the crowd passing them by they have a way of attempting the role of reformers, and they usually reform on those lines that will bring notice and notoriety.

The business of a novelist is to tell stories. As a philosopher he is usually an ass. But assume that Meredith is sincere—it is a hard thing to do—his proposition is as disgusting as it is absurd. Civilization and morality are founded on its contradiction. His plan is merely throwing a coat of respectability, in the shape of a custom—legalized by law—over vice, and calling it virtue.

In spite of the frequency of divorce in America there is a decent sentiment in favor of the inviolability of the marriage contract. The healthy American loves his home. He guards his wife and children as his supreme possessions. He will fight for them, kill for them and die for them.

His children are, in his mind, not the wards of the state, as Meredith senilely suggests, but his own flesh and blood.

There is nothing more beautiful than the love of the old husband for his old wife. Yet Meredith would have them totter into a divorce court, announce that they had lived out their 10 years of marriage and each go away alone, the old man seeking a new wife, the old woman a new husband.

The American believes in the home, the sacredness of marriage, and he believes that any man advocating free divorce is either a fakir or a fool.

THE BOY AND THE GIRL.

It has not been many months since an eastern court decided that a boy was much more valuable than a girl. In the case at issue several children were killed in a street-car collision. Suits for damages followed, the court awarding greater amounts in the cases instituted by the parents of the boy than in those started by the parents of the girl. In effect, the court ruled that the boy was more valuable than the girl—that his earning capacity was greater, and that he would develop into something more substantial than would come with development of the girl. However, there are two sides to the case, and no less an authority than the Saturday Evening Post readily figures it that the girl is the better creature of the two. Its idea of the matter is submitted for the benefit and satisfaction of those who could not find consolation in the decision of the court above referred to:

When the czar's little girls were born each was welcomed with a salute of a hundred guns, and the natives felt like putting on mourning. When the boy was born the salute was three hundred guns and the nation "went wild" with joy. Here, of course, was an amusing survival of the ancient days when the tenant of the throne got his seat by winning it and held by deserving it. But isn't there, even in some very sensible families and among some very enlightened people, a sneaking survival of the notion that a boy baby is worth three hundred guns and a girl a grudging, for-politeness-sake, hundred?

Yet, so far as the solid benefit to the parents is concerned, a boy isn't to be compared with a girl. The boy is turbulent and mischievous, a trial and an anxiety, and finally marries and belongs to his wife's family. But the girl—she helps to make the home during her unmarried life, and when she marries her home is an extension of the one she left.

A boy can make his parents proud. A girl can make them both proud and comfortable.

Lieutenant Peary thinks of making one more trip to the polar regions. When a man gets the Arctic exploration habit it is very hard to swear off.

The youth of the country is now compelled to read about the Trojan war when it would prefer to be getting the latest news from Port Arthur.

The Chicago prediction that wheat will be, worth \$2 a bushel promises larger holes than ever through the loaf of baker's bread.

The Japanese are amazed at Russia's stupidity in not knowing when it is surrendering time.

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THINGS SEEN AND UNSEEN.

National Prosperity Not the Great Consideratum.

The one killing, blasting superstition of the age, the blight which has fallen upon human thought, the mildew which works the decay of social morality, is the assumption that nothing is of consequence in this world which cannot be discerned by the senses; that no knowledge is certain or precious but the knowledge which is derived from experimental reasoning; that no possessions are of much account which cannot be turned into things measurable and ponderable. It underlies much of our modern education, which sets before itself no other aim than that of qualifying the person receiving it to accumulate material wealth. Now and then some small philosopher thinks he has made a perfectly conclusive point against a college education when he points out that very few of our contemporary plutocrats have received such an education. The inevitable reply of every truly educated man has not occurred to him, that no man upon whom a college education had not been wasted could every by any possibility be found in such a class. Sensible men who are accumulating wealth know when they have enough. But such a philosopher understands the public to which he speaks, and knows that his argument will be accepted as unanswerable by the great majority. Why, indeed, they ask, should any man seek an education if it does not qualify him for greater success in accumulating the things which are seen? And what is success, if it is not the heaping up of these visible and tangible evidences of material prosperity?—Washington Gladden, D. D.

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